

a Cyclopean formation, resulting from a central combination of the specks, which, in *Discophoræ*, occupy a peripheric position.

The nature of the tubercle, or ganglion-like mass, placed between the eye-capsule and the fork of the funnel, is still more problematical. This body is of larger size than the black speck and its capsule, under which converge the eight narrow prolongations of the ambulacral rows, and on the anterior and the posterior side of which are seen four smaller tubercles or swellings, between which arise two ridges rapidly diverging forward and backward. I can offer only suggestions respecting these parts. I am, however, inclined to believe that the two ridges between the four small swellings extending forward and backward are only outlines of the folds which form the circumscribed area; that the four small swellings themselves are clusters of cells connected with the narrow termination of the ambulacral rows; and that the wall-like outlines of the tubercle are determined by the fork of the funnel. As for nerves, which are said to arise from the ganglion connected with the black speck, I have been unable to make them out. I have traced the motory cells which surround the abactinal extremity of the chymiferous funnel; I have seen these cells diverging from the actinal side of the so-called ganglion, but have never been able to trace any one of them beyond the usual length of these cells; I have repeatedly seen these cells in a state of contraction or relaxation, presenting so little resemblance to nerves that I think it rather assuming to ascribe a nervous system to the *Ctenophoræ*. I am even satisfied, from the descriptions published, that the eight converging narrow prolongations of the ambulacral rows, of which I find no mention in former authors, must have been mistaken for nervous threads by some; and when Professor Grant states that *Beroë* has eight main nerves arising from eight ganglions, I suppose he alludes to some contracted cells of the spherosome, or to the eight narrow abactinal bands, the connection of which with the rows of locomotive flappers is so easily traced. I do not, however, deny that this centre is a point where we have to look for at least one part of the nervous system, and the movable margin of the mouth for the other part, if there really be a distinct nervous system in *Ctenophoræ*. But, as for myself, I have failed in tracing it out; though, I may add, I am sufficiently acquainted with the structure of the region where it is said to have been observed, to doubt the accuracy of the statements which have been made about it. And I express these doubts, notwithstanding the doubts I myself entertain respecting the real nature of some organs around the central black speck, for the very reason, that, after finding there more than has been seen and described, and various things which may answer the vague descriptions given, I do not in reality find what has been said to exist in that part of the animal.

When I first described our *Pleurobrachia* I did not know its mode of develop-